

**Creation/Evolution**—Frederick Edwords, Editor. P. O. Box 146 Amherst Branch Buffalo, NY 14226. Published quarterly, \$8.00/year. Back Issues \$2.50 each.

This timely new journal is a must for the libraries of science teachers, professors, high schools, and colleges. *Creation/Evolution* provides easily understood answers to the bizarre assortment of specious anti-evolution arguments raised by religious fundamentalists under the euphemism of "scientific creationism." The strategy of creationists is based upon deception, misrepresentation, and obfuscation designed to dupe the public into thinking that there is a genuine scientific controversy about the validity of evolution. No such controversy exists, of course, but it is difficult for the lay public to tell the scientists from the creationists who cloak absurd claims in scientific terminology. Scientists have done a very poor job of explaining our theories to the general public. This communication gap has spawned this new periodical.

The value of *Creation/Evolution* lies in its marshalling of arguments against the misrepresentations of the creationists. No individual is able to effectively counter every anti-evolution argument in all fields of biology, geology, anthropology, physics, and astronomy. For example, how many biology or geology teachers can explain why a living freshwater mussel was determined by C-14 dating to be over 2,000 years old? Creationists claim this discredits C-14 dating. The answer is that the mussels acquire much of their carbon from the limestone of the surrounding water and sediment. These sources are very low in C-14 due to their age and lack of mixing with fresh carbon from the atmosphere. Therefore a newly killed mussel has less C-14 than, say, a newly cut tree branch. The reduced level of C-14 yields an older date. The C-14 technique has no such problems with the tree branch that gets its carbon from the air. Answers to other creationists' attacks on C-14 dating are found in Issue 8.

The creationists' misuse of the Second Law of Thermodynamics is dealt with in Issue 4. In Issue 6, one of the silliest of the creationists' claims, that human and dinosaur tracts occur together in Texas, is shown to be a fraud. Some of the articles are written by well-known scientists such as Niles Eldridge of the American Museum of Natural History. Each issue averages 45 pages and has about 4 major articles as well as reports dealing with news of legal battles, debates, book reviews, and other relevant information.

*Creation/Evolution* was founded by three non-scientists, Frederick Edwords, Phillip Osmon, and Christopher Weber, with a \$50 investment. It has been owned by the American Humanist Association since Issue 5. A total of 9 issues has been produced to date.

Additional ammunition for repelling the fundamentalists' assault on science can be obtained from the *Journal of Geological Education* Vol. 30(1), 1982. This issue is devoted to answering creationist challenges to geology and gives a critique of creationists' cosmology. It includes an excellent 25-page article by physicist Stephen G. Bush on radiometric dating and the age of the earth. The thrust of this issue is to demonstrate the ancient nature of the earth and to show that there is not a shred of scientific evidence to support the creationists' belief in a young earth.

U. S. District Court Judge William R. Overton, in his 5 January 1982 ruling permanently enjoining the implementation of Arkansas Act 590, the "Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Act," wrote "since creation science is not science, the conclusion is inescapable that the only real effect of Act 590 is the advancement of religion." *Science* Vol. 215: 934-943 (19 February 1982) reproduced the complete text of Overton's judgment, injunction, and opinion. This should be required reading for all science teachers. It will reaffirm your confidence in the American judicial system.

In response to the movement to introduce fundamentalist beliefs into science classrooms, a "Committee of Correspondence" on creation/evolution has been formed in Ohio. Over 40 such committees have been organized across the country. The Committee's purpose is to facilitate communication about the issues and to mobilize the proper responses. An initial goal is to compile a mailing list of po-

tentially active individuals interested in countering the forced teaching of creationism. Anyone interested in becoming part of the Ohio network should contact Dr. Catherine A. Callaghan, Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210 or Dr. Steven N. Shore, Department of Astronomy, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106.

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## PUBLIC LECTURE

### DR. SIDNEY W. FOX

Director of Institute for Molecular and Cellular Evolution  
University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida

will present a lecture entitled

### THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

Monday, 28 February 1983, 8:00 P.M.

Ovalwood Hall Auditorium

The Ohio State University at Mansfield  
North Central Technical College

General Admission \$3.00

Students \$2.00